

In the Circuit Court for Lawrence County, Alabama

Thirty-Sixth Judicial Circuit

State of Alabama

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2 REGARDING
MARCH 13, 2020 AND MARCH 15, 2020
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS
ENTERED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA**

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Supreme Court of Alabama, the Honorable Chief Justice Tom Parker, presiding, entered the ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER SUSPENDING ALL IN-PERSON COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS, IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE, (“the Order”);

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the Supreme Court of Alabama, the Honorable Chief Justice Tom Parker, presiding, entered the ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2 PERTAINING TO THE SUSPENSION OF ALL IN-PERSON COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS, (“Order No. 2”);

WHEREAS, in view of the Order and Order No. 2, on March 15, 2020, this undersigned court entered an administrative order and published upon the records of this court, to-wit, “ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING MARCH 13, 2020 AND MARCH 15, 2020 ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS ENTERED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA” (“the Admin Order No.1”);

WHEREAS, following entry of the Admin Order No. 1, the Lawrence County Commission “declared a state of emergency for the county to deal with the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. Therefore, beginning at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2020, all County owned and operated buildings/properties will be closed to the public until further notice” (“the County Commission Order”);

WHEREAS, by law and resolution, the Lawrence County Judicial and Administrative Center (“LCJAC”) is the exclusive location provided by the County Commission from the conducting of court business for the 36th Judicial Circuit, including without limit the performance of the duties of the Circuit Court, Circuit Judge, Circuit Court Clerk, District Court, District Court Judge, Juvenile Court, Juvenile Court Judge, Probate Court and Probate Court Judge, and the LCJAC is subject to the closure effected in the County Commission Order;

WHEREAS, an order of this court is advisable and necessary, in view of the Order, Order No. 2, the Admin Order No. 1, and the County Commission Order; and

NOW, BE IT ORDERED by the Court as follows:

1) To effect the provisions of the Admin Order No.1, and not to replace or alter such provisions, the Sheriff of Lawrence County, Alabama, is ORDERED to provide on-site security officers on each day of any designated in-person hearings permitted under the prior orders of this court.

2) Each judge conducting any such hearings shall provide twenty-four (24) hour notice (or otherwise reasonable notice as determined by the judge) to the Sheriff of the date and time of the hearing and shall designate therein, the names of each party ordered to attend, the names of all counsel (if any) involved, the names of all subpoenaed witnesses for such hearing (collectively, "Permitted Attendees").

3) On the date and time of the hearing, the Permitted Attendees shall present themselves to the locked doors of the LCJAC, on the east side, and shall present to the assigned security personnel, sufficient photographic personal identification, so that the security personnel can assure that such persons are among the class of Permitted Attendees.

4) The properly identified Permitted Attendees shall be processed through regular security scan and protocol (including the completion and signing of the COURTHOUSE ENTRANCE FORM FOR COURT ATTENDEES ("the Form"), a form copy of which is attached hereto, and, if allowed, shall then be personally accompanied by at least one courthouse security person to the courtroom involved (for the circuit court, they shall be escorted through the jury lounge and then to the party entrance on the westernmost door on the south side of the courtroom).

5) Any person attempting entrance in the LCJAC who is not listed as a Permitted Attendee, or who fails to comply with the above security protocol, or who fails to fully complete the Form, or answers Yes to any of the questions on the Form, shall not be permitted entrance into the LCJAC, without the expressed approval of the judge presiding over such proceedings after the judge is made aware of the circumstances that might not permit the person to enter LCJAC.

6) Parties and counsel shall be seated at counsel tables if permitted in the courtroom.

7) No courtroom attendees shall be permitted to come within six (6) feet of the judge, the court reporter or any other court personnel, without the expressed permission of the judge presiding,

8) It shall be the responsibility of individual judges to identify those cases that involve one of the Exceptions described in the Admin Order No. 1 and to enter appropriate orders in such cases, including setting them for in-person hearings.

9) When a judge has set an in-person hearing, the only persons permitted in the courtroom are the parties, the attorneys, court personnel, and persons whose presence is deemed necessary by the judge.

10) The doors to the circuit courtroom shall remain locked from entrance by the public and persons shall be allowed in the courtroom only with the expressed permission of court personnel or court security personnel consistent with the terms of this order.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that copies of this Order be spread upon the minutes of this court and transmitted to the offices affected thereby, to the Lawrence County Commission, to the Sheriff of Lawrence County, and to the Administrative Office of Courts;

DONE AND ORDERED, this 23rd day of March, 2020,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark B. Craig", written over a horizontal line.

MARK B. CRAIG
Presiding Circuit Judge
36th Judicial Circuit